

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUATEM 02057 212033Z

64

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EA-10

AID-05 /080 W

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R 211902Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6512

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

USCINCSO

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 2057

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINT, GT

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO SOUTHEAST ASIA EVENTS

REF: STATE 86289

1. THERE HAS BEEN NO EDITORIAL REACTION HERE TO PRESIDENT FORD'S APRIL 10 ADDRESS. COVERAGE OF THE SPEECH HAS BEEN SLIGHT.

3. EDITORIAL REACTION TO EVENTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA HAS BEEN MIXED. THREE CURRENTS ARE APPARENT: ONE HARSHLY CRITICAL OF US POLICY, ONE WHICH CONCENTRATES PRIMARILY ON THE DIMENSIONS OF HUMAN SUFFERING THERE, AND ONE WHICH, ALTHOUGH CRITICAL OF US INVOLVEMENT, DOES NOT EQUATE DEFEAT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA WITH AN OVERALL US DECLINE.

3. THE MOST VIOLENTLY CRITICAL EDITORIAL PUBLISHED HERE SO FAR WAS BY CLEMENTE MARROQUIN ROJAS. TITLED "WHO WILL BE ABLE TO TRUST THE UNITED STATES," IT CONCLUDES THAT "NO
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PAGE 02 GUATEM 02057 212033Z

ONE WILL NOW BELIEVE IN THE UNITED STATES, IN ITS

INDOMITABLE POWER, IN ITS ENDLESS RICHES, IN ITS MASS
PRODUCTION."

4. AN APRIL 12 COLUMN IN EL GRAFICO BY HECTOR LUNA
TROCCOLI COMMENTS THAT VIETNAM IS "THE CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF
SENSELESS DEATHS," DEATHS MADE PARTICULARLY SENSELESS
BECAUSE THEY OCCURRED IN A CAUSE NOT LOST BUT ABANDONED.

5. WHAT WE CONSIDER THE MOST "BALANCED" COMMENT IS THE
APRIL 19 EDITORIAL IN EL GRAFICO. WHILE EXPRESSING
SATISFACTION THAT THE "UNITED STATES WAS CAPABLE OF RADICALLY
REORIENTING ITS POLICY IN INDOCHINA," IT CAUTIONS THAT
"NO ONE SHOULD MAKE THE ERROR OF SUPPOSING THAT THE UNITED
STATES HAS CEASED TO BE THE NUMBER ONE MILITARY AND
POLITICAL POWER IN THE WORLD BECAUSE IT HAS ABANDONED
THE FIELD TO THE ENEMY IN INDOCHINA."
MELOY

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NNN

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